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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [IS](#) [LE](#) [SY](#) [XF](#) [EUN](#)
SUBJECT: EU QUARTET ENVOY MARC OTTE DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST

Classified By: Deputy Political Minister Counselor Alyce Tidball for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1.](#) (C) European Union (EU) Special Representative on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) Mark Otte discussed Lebanon and the MEPP in an introductory meeting with USEU DCM on September 18. Otte said the Arab states may not participate in an international meeting on the Israeli-Palestinian issue unless the Syrians are invited. The Russians, Egyptians and some EU member states have made the same point to Otte.

[¶2.](#) (C) Otte also reported that the September 18 meeting of the EU political and security committee (PSC) discussed a proposed EU security mission for the Lebanese-Syrian border, agreeing that a fact-finding mission should be sent to Damascus to determine Syria's supposed willingness to host such a mission. Otte said the EU will need more information on who would be in charge of the monitoring mission and what exactly the mandate would be. He said Syria's real intentions will have to be gauged through quiet diplomacy.

[¶3.](#) (C) Otte emphasized the dramatic problem of rearming in Lebanon, noting that Hizbollah has completely rearmed. He agreed with DCM that the Syrians are still trying to control Lebanon, in part through their relationship with Paliament Speaker Nabih Berri.

Murray

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